

BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

FEBRUARY, 1983

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 2

Inside

- Ennis Whatley
- Ray Perkins
- Jesse Bendross
- Football Recruits
- And Much More



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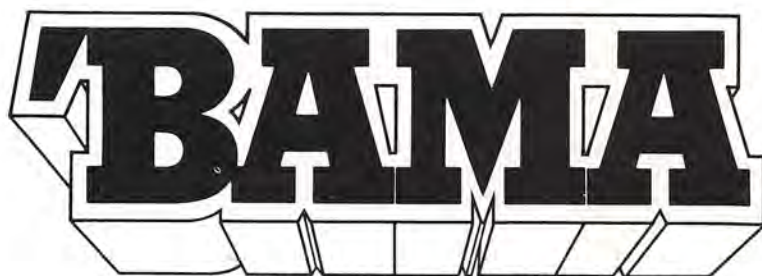
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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Ray Perkins:

The State Of The Tide

by Kirk McNair

There's no question about the focus of the efforts of Alabama head football coach Ray Perkins. He arrived in Alabama January 4, had a day-long (and into the night) recruiting meeting with his staff January 5, and hit the ground running recruiting January 6. His stops in Tuscaloosa since have been merely to take stock of events and to meet with

prospects visiting The University. He's satisfied that his efforts are producing acceptable results, that top high school football prospects are interested in what Alabama has to offer.

"I wanted to make sure I covered the state as soon as possible for several reasons," says coach Perkins. "I wanted to see the young men we are recruiting as

student-athletes and meet their parents. And I also wanted to get visible within the state. I think we've done that and been effective." A second blitz of the state was scheduled for the final week of January, prior to the beginning of prep signings of national letters-of-intent on February 9.

"We had to double up and catch up, so to speak," says Bama's new head football coach. "There are a few we didn't see on our first visits that we want to. We're also getting around outside the state. You don't know until it's over, but I think things are going pretty well."

Alabama has undergone the most publicized change in head football coaches in recent years. The retirement of coach Bryant shocked the college football world because there has never been another one like him. When Bama chose coach Perkins and he elected to leave what many consider to be the number one job in professional football, coach of the New York Giants, for his alma mater, there was additional national attention to the change. It is certain that this publicity, along with the signing date (a December signing date of conference letters-of-intent, as was the case until two years ago, might have been disastrous for Alabama recruiting this year), has helped Tide recruiting.

Alabama suffered through an 8-4 season in 1982. That is an acceptable winning percentage at many places, but at Alabama it is an indication of a deteriorated program. Does coach Perkins feel he is coming in having to rebuild the team, particularly considering the loss of so many seniors? "I think in the case of any team, college or pro, you are in a continuous state of rebuilding," says coach Perkins. "I think in college in your



New Alabama head coach Ray Perkins addresses prep prospects with a three-fold promise: that they will leave The University with a meaningful degree, that they will be better people for the experience, and that they will have a chance to play for the national championship.

Crosby Thomley Photo

recruiting you have to think ahead, two or three years down the road, as well as thinking about your present needs."

He says that the changeover has been "in some ways a positive thing for us. We've got some young men who are interested and very close to committing to us or committed to us who would not have committed to us had we stayed in the wishbone offense, for example; some offensive linemen, some running backs and some quarterbacks."

There's little question that coach Perkins' reputation and connections in professional football are a benefit for Alabama in recruiting. A high school football player who is good enough to be recruited by Alabama has legitimate reason to believe that he may one day have a future in professional football. However, coach Perkins is not emphasizing that in his recruiting efforts. "One offensive lineman we are recruiting indicated he would rather get four years of training in a diversified offense than in the wishbone because his goal after college is to play pro football. So that's an advantage for us with him. I think we can help those people. In fact, there's no question in my mind we can. (New offensive line coach) Tom Goode played in the offensive

line in pro football for 12 years. (New quarterback coach) Dave Rader played for four years; he didn't play that much, but he learned an awful lot and he's got an exceptional mind. I was there.

"But I don't think that should be the determining factor to a young man coming to this university. I think the first thing we stress, and will continue to stress, is that a young man should come to this university because Alabama can afford him the best opportunity to attain all his goals. Now, if he can attain all those goals in college, accomplish the things he would like to do, and also gain the skills to play professional football, our special expertise then becomes a factor.

"But the first thing has to be whether we can offer the young man a course of study that he wants. I feel very strongly that he should come here first and foremost because he wants to get an education. When he walks away from here he wants to walk away from here with a degree, a degree he can use out there in life. That must be his number one objective.

"Then there is the football aspect. What does he want to accomplish from an individual standpoint? What kind of team would he like to play on? Does he merely want to play on a winning team; is he go-

ing to be satisfied with a 7-4 season? Or does he want to win the national championship? We hope that he has real high goals, because we certainly do. And we are going to take the extra steps that it takes to afford that young man and the entire team that opportunity.

"And being realistic, there are some schools that might offer something a little out of the ordinary or some specialized area that fits the needs and wants of a young man that Alabama doesn't.

"I really don't think it's a selling job, this recruiting thing. It really depends on the needs and wants of the young man, and I don't think it's a very hard choice for him. I think if the young man will sit down and list the things he really wants to accomplish and is honest with himself, it shouldn't be a hard decision for him most of the time. I try to sell young people on going to school where they really want to go; where they can get the degree they want and where they can accomplish what they want in football.

"I'm not a pressure guy, and won't ever be. I'll never have a part in trying to pressure a young man into coming to Alabama. I want it to be his decision. Whether they come here or not, the best thing for them is to go where they want to. Not because their mother and father want

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them to go there, not because their preacher wants them to go there, not because their high school coach wants them to go there, or their teachers, or their friends, or their relatives. But because they want to. Because I strongly believe that if you do something you don't really want to, chances are good you're not going to be happy and you're not going to be successful."

Coach Perkins is spending much of his time visiting with prospects and their high school coaches "and also with mothers and fathers. This past year my wife and I sent our son off to college. He's at Jacksonville State. I can appreciate how a mother and father feel about sending their son off for the first time. I was concerned; but I was not nearly as concerned as I would have been had he chosen another school. He picked Jacksonville State where Jimmy Fuller is head coach. I was a freshman here at the University with him, played ball with him and he's a friend of mine. That was important to me as a parent and I think it's important to the parents of the young men we are recruiting that they know about me and what I believe in."

Coach Perkins has begun the process of familiarizing himself with returning Alabama personnel. "As far as knowing much about the men coming back, I have limited knowledge," he admits. "I have gone over the players with some of our coaches. I'm certainly aware we lost a lot of football players. We lost some very good football players and a few great ones. You can look at it and say we lost four of the five starting offensive linemen, and that's a pretty big hole to fill. Certainly we've got some people who played some, and that's of value. I went to the Penn State game and I saw the second and third units in the game in the third quarter. So we do have some people who have shown they can play football, winning football. The number of those, the depth of those, I don't know."

He has had one group meeting with the team and "I have met a few of them on a one-on-one basis, but I haven't been in town enough to really get to know them."

He is also aware that Bama has a few men with academic problems, but that area is basically good.

Spring training will begin March 21 with the annual A-Day Game being played April 16. (The Tide will also have a coaching clinic in conjunction with spring drills, part of the overall recruiting effort.) When it does, the primary area of interest will be on the offense as Alabama shifts from the wishbone to "a more varied offense." Coach Perkins points out that "we're still

going to run the football, about a two to one ratio over the pass. But we think we're giving an offensive player far more of an opportunity to show all of his skills and to use all of his talents, than say a wishbone back.

"But that's not the reason we're changing. We're not just arbitrarily changing. First of all, we have good people to start it with. A few of those people are going to be seniors—Walter Lewis at quarterback, Joey Jones and Jesse Bendross at wide receiver. We also feel we have a very good fullback in Ricky Moore, who is not a senior. Those are just some of the people we feel will fit in well to our offense.

"Another primary reason is recent rules changes in college football in reference to a passing game. These rules have opened things up. There are not many colleges taking advantage of these changes; why, I don't know. But I think that we can; I think we can be very successful at it. I know we can be very, very successful at several things in the passing game which are not truly passes; they are runs where you just don't hand the ball off, you use a controlled passing game. I know of only one or two colleges in the country using this.

"It's nothing revolutionary. And it's not my idea; I got it from someone else. Basically there's nothing new in football; everything that's done has been done a long time ago.

"I think we'll be successful; and know we've created some interest."

Defensively, coach Perkins plans to keep basically the same scheme, as he indicated when he retained four Bama assistant coaches from coach Bryant's staff, all on defense. "They've played pretty good defense around here for a long time. I elected to keep four coaches on that side of the ball, first and foremost because they are good people and outstanding football coaches.

"I think that helps out in keeping some kind of continuity in the program, too.

"That doesn't mean we won't evaluate what we've done over there, as we will continually, and make any necessary changes. I'm sure we'll have some new wrinkles over there, but it won't be a major change as we are having offensively."

New NCAA rules permit nine full-time assistant coaches. In addition to the four retained defensive coordinator Ken Donahue, end coach Steve Hale, linebacker coach Sylvester Croom and secondary coach Louis Campbell) and the four new offensive coaches (offensive coordinator George Henshaw, coach Goode, coach Rader and Rocky Felker, who will coach receivers) coach Perkins

plans to have one special assistant, primarily in charge of the kicking game, but with other responsibilities, too."

There are other areas of administration for him to work on in the near future. He is aware of open dates on Alabama's football schedules, Bama having only 10 games scheduled in 1984 and 1985. "I have talked to coach Bryant about that briefly and we will work together to fill those as soon as we can," says coach Perkins.

There might also be an opportunity for coach Perkins to pick up a 12th game. A new kickoff game for college football has been approved for late August, two teams meeting in a special game to provide funds for the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame. Obviously the teams selected for this game would be teams of high national visibility, of which Alabama ranks in the forefront. An additional advantage for picking Bama is its new head coach. The game would be played in Giants Stadium at the Meadowlands, where coach Perkins has toiled the past four years. He is a tremendous favorite in New York and his appearance in the kickoff game would give an additional boost to its success.

Although Alabama will continue to play football games at Legion Field in Birmingham, "I would like to play more home games," says coach Perkins. "I would like to play one or two more games here, but we'll continue to play in Birmingham, too."

He'll also oversee the construction of a new facility for football adjacent to the practice area. A building housing dressing rooms for football players and coaches, lounge, weight room and training room will be completed by the fall of 1984.

Coach Bryant's initial decision to retire as football coach and remain as director of athletics was altered somewhat when he told a Memphis sports writer that he would probably not continue as director of athletics for very long. Friends of coach Bryant now say he plans to remain until the beginning of next football season. Coach Perkins took himself out of the picture for the dual job, but he may reconsider.

"As I told Dr. Thomas (University president Joab Thomas), the only way I would consider that is if we hired someone else to do the job and I had the job in name only. I told him I was not a business manager when we discussed it. I am, in a sense, being a head coach, but I basically don't think a head coach can really do the job of athletics director if he's doing his job as football coach. Now, be the athletics director in name and have someone else do the job: Yes."

Meet The Staff:

History Reveals Goode Is A Winner

Editor's Note: Coach Ray Perkins has begun the process of molding the new Alabama coaching staff. In addition to the four holdovers from coach Bryant's staff on defense (coordinator Ken Donahue, linebacker coach Sylvester Croom, end coach Steve Hale and secondary coach Louis Campbell), he has added offensive line coach Tom Goode, quarterback coach Dave Rader, receiver coach Rocky Felker and offensive coordinator George Henshaw, who will also coach running backs. 'BAMA will look at these and other new staff members in coming issues.

His book is entitled *Guts, God and the Super Bowl*, and Tom Goode would love to update it to include a national football championship. That is something the newly appointed Alabama assistant coach has not tasted during his illustrious career as a player and coach.

"I'd view a national championship the same way I view that Super Bowl championship I experienced as a Baltimore Colt in 1970," says coach Goode, who comes to Alabama after four years as assistant head coach at Ole Miss. "I've never experienced that thrill, nor have I experienced the thrill of winning a Southeastern Conference championship.

"My basic goal is to help Alabama in any way I can, to do anything it takes to help us win a conference championship and a national championship."

A winner is a winner, and coach Perkins has selected several while arranging his staff, with coach Goode a key ingredient in the new formula. He was an All-America as a center and linebacker at Mississippi State from 1957 through 1961, and he was an All-National Football League center in nine years as a professional, four with the Houston Oilers, four with the Miami Dolphins and one with the Colts. In 1969, he was presented an "Iron Man



Tom Goode

Award" after starting 152 consecutive games. He was the Dolphins' most valuable offensive lineman that year and in 1966. In 1967, he was the Dolphins' most valuable player. In addition to his four seasons at Ole Miss, he has served as a collegiate assistant coach six years, five at Mississippi State and one as offensive coordinator at Vanderbilt, and he served one season as offensive coordinator of the Calgary Stampeders of the Canadian Football League.

Such success considered, however, Coach Goode has never participated in a victory over Alabama. His record in that regard is 0-11.

"That's enough losses," says coach Goode, who smiles at the mention of that

record. "I've been on the short end long enough. I'm pleased to be a part of this program. If you can't beat them, join them.

"Seriously, I've nothing except respect for the Alabama program since coach Bryant came here in 1958. Not only have Alabama players won, they've conducted themselves with class. That's important to me.

"I've always thought that if I ever made a move from Ole Miss, which is near my home in West Point (Mississippi), that it'd be to an NFL team. I've had the chance to do that, but I've always thought about my wife and my children, who are still growing up. Alabama provided me with a super opportunity. Now, I'm a part of a program with great tradition, and I'm as close to home as I was in Oxford (Mississippi)."

Coach Goode and coach Perkins played one year together at Baltimore. (Goode's final professional play was the snap on which the Colts kicked a field to defeat Dallas 16-13 and win Super Bowl V.) They have been friends since before that, however, and have developed mutual respect.

"I was impressed with coach Perkins the day I met him," says coach Goode, "and he hasn't done anything to change that. We're close friends. I'm delighted to have the opportunity to work on his staff. We shared a great thrill in Baltimore in 1970, and I expect us to share many more at Alabama."

Coach Goode, 44, a native Mississippian, is married to the former Eleanor Coleson, and they have three children, Lessie, 19, Tom Jr., 17, and Michael, 12.

—Al Browning

Women's Athletics:

Proof Positive Of Hard Work

by Gay Sievers

She's only five feet tall, but you have to look up to her. She came to Alabama an average Class 1 gymnast. After four years of dedicated work, Ann Wilhide competes well with the elites.

"Annie is one of the most improved gymnasts on the college level," says Tide coach Sarah Patterson. "She has gone far beyond what most people thought her capabilities were or could be."

Elites are the top skilled gymnasts; the ones you see on television in national and international competitions. They perform the most difficult twists and spins.

Wilhide has mastered a double back somersault, a handspring front vault and is working on a full twisting vault for later in the season.

"I never thought that I would make these strides in college," said Wilhide. "Usually when you get to college, you perform the same tricks you've already learned, you improve a little or you go down hill. I'm glad Sarah and David (Patterson) won't let us stand still."

"I'm surprised that I've improved so much, but I don't think I would have been happy in gymnastics the past four years, if I'd not been improving and learning new things. I'm real happy that I've improved, but I'm sad that my four years are ending," says the bubbly blonde.

Another surprise for Wilhide came last year in the Southeastern Conference Championship when she set two team records posting a 9.4 points (out of 10) on the vault and 9.25 points in the floor exercise. She placed fourth in both events at that championship.

"I like doing floor," she says thoughtfully. "But I guess tumbling is what I do best. I can't say floor is my best because dance isn't my best. But I've liked all events at different times. As a freshman,

Tide senior co-captain Ann Wilhide has developed into a skilled gymnast, ready and able to compete with elite performers across the country.

University of Alabama Photo



floor was my favorite, then it was beam and last year bars and vault.

"Bars have improved more than other events, but overall I guess my improvement is a combination of losing weight, getting stronger, more flexibility and learning to concentrate," comments the Dean's List communications major.

According to Patterson, the Tide's fifth-year coach, Wilhide learned most of her tricks last year, but lacked confidence to perform them consistently. But that's all changing.

"I guess it's a maturing process," says Patterson. "She's gotten tough mentally and everything is going right for her. She's more dedicated to her gymnastics and her teammates recognize that and elected her a co-captain for this year. Not only is her performance important, but she's important to the rest of the team.

"She serves as someone for the underclassmen to look up to. They see her and think, 'If Ann can come in as a freshman and be here as a senior performing at a higher skill level, then I can do it too.'

"Ann proves that if you do want you're supposed to do and work hard, you'll receive the rewards. She wanted to compete badly enough this year that she did what it took to make our all-around line-up. She won't let anything stop her now," concludes Patterson, twice named the Coach of the Year by the Alabama collegiate gymnastics coaches.

In 1982, Wilhide, a graduate of Plant High School in Tampa, Florida ranked fourth on the team in all-around, first on vault, third on floor exercise, fifth on bars and seventh on beam.

In the team's intrasquad meet in December, she was third in the all-around only 95-hundredths of a point behind freshman elite gymnast Patti Rice and only six-tenths behind the Tide's first All-American Julie Garrett.

"I thought last year that Sarah might take me off bars and beam this year, so I'd only do vault and floor," says Wilhide. "But I can't work just two events. Most gymnasts that have worked all-around most of their life feel incomplete when they don't go all-around. It's a challenge for me to compete four events."

Her challenge started early when she began acrobatics, while her sister Peggy was taking baton lessons. "I learned to do cartwheels and did them all over the place, so Mom enrolled me in acrobatics while we were in Maryland. But when we moved to Michigan, they did not have acrobatics, so I started gymnastics at the 'Y'. I never dreamed I'd be doing it 10 years later for a team which is competing for the national championship."



Ann Wilhide

Wilhide has improved with hard work in and out of the gym. "The hardest things for me were weight (keeping it down), flexibility and my knee. I've had everything wrong with my right knee and it's been braced and taped daily. In mid-January, they told me I had tendonitis in it.

"I've lost 10 pounds since I came to Alabama, so I compete at 105 pounds, and I've worked with our trainers to get more flexible. I guess my improvement is mainly mental—thinking gymnastics. It's

always there in the back of your mind. It occupies a lot of your thoughts and decisions. But when it does, everything else falls into place for you.

"Like last year, in order to make my double back somersault, I started running," says Wilhide. "I would be dying on the last lap, but I'd ask myself, 'How bad do you want that double back, just how BAD?' My answer, 'if you want it, you better keep running,' that's how I got through those laps. If you think about something you want to do, the problems don't bother you."

All those laps paid off and all that thinking about gymnastics really helps. Wilhide is at the top of her form, she wants the team to win the SEC and NCAA Region championships and to be a top three team in the nation. She's ready to give her all to the team.

"My role as captain is to help the younger ones through the hard times. To let them see that I survived and they can make it too," she says. "I want Sarah and David to use me and other team members for recruiting. Not many schools can do that. They can't say look what she learned after she came to Alabama. She worked and look how she improved."

Ann is diminutive in height, but she's a giant at heart and in gymnastics.



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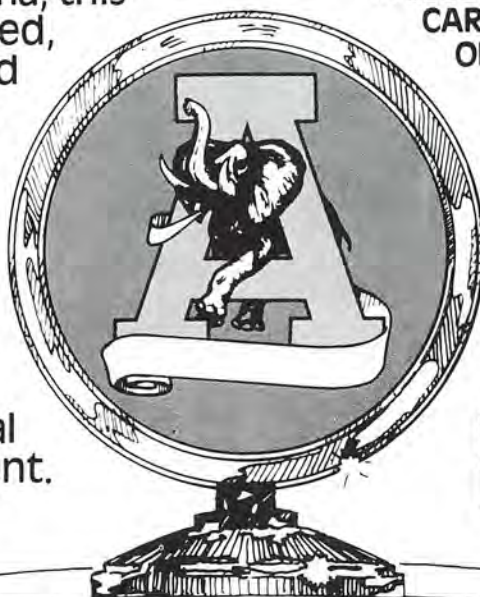
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Jesse Bendross:

Ready For The Pass

by Al Browning

Good things come to people who wait patiently.

While that cannot be considered an axiom, because it does not always hold true, it has worked well for Alabama split end Jesse Bendross, a second coming of Job, only in shoulder pads and a helmet, who seems destined to achieve football stardom as a senior next season.

Numbers, in the form of his career statistics, only tell part of the story about Bendross, who once appeared to be nothing more than, well, a "passing" fancy in the Crimson Tide program that since 1971 has favored wishing on a bone over heaving a football.

Alabama appears destined to pass the football more under the leadership of its new coach, Ray Perkins, and, while Bendross and other talented receivers have done a lot of catching in recent years, they are also certain to play more vital roles in a carnival-like offense scheduled to make its debut in 1983.

With each "passing" day (again, excuse the pun) the end of the Paul "Bear" Bryant era at Alabama, accented by the dawning of the new regime, the future appears brighter for quarterbacks and receivers in the Crimson Tide program.

As a senior at Miramar High School in Hollywood, Florida, Bendross caught 62 passes, an impressive enough total to lure hundreds of college recruiters to his front door.

At Alabama, three seasons considered, Bendross has caught 53 passes.

Has that been bad?

No, that has been good, considering the offensive philosophy, to the extent Bendross, who looks a lot like Chico Valenzuela of "Saturday Night Live"



Jesse Bendross

television fame, could say, "Alabama football has been very, very good to me."

It could get very, very much better.

"I talked briefly with coach Perkins when he made his first visit to town and I was very impressed with him," says Bendross. "That eased the shock of coach Bryant retiring for me. All of us were very concerned when we heard the news that coach Bryant was calling it quits, and talking to coach Perkins made that a lot easier to take."

"I'm excited about our offense next season, what it could be. I'm sure it'll be more wide open than last year, because coach Perkins was a pro coach (with the New York Giants) and they pass the ball a lot in the NFL."

"His philosophy seems perfect for a pass receiver."

Bendross, who has been instrumental in Alabama success in the last few years, particularly during the latter stages of the 1981 season, has fresh optimism after a rollercoaster ride as a Crimson Tide

player. He has had his share of restless, painful nights.

"I almost went nuts during my freshman season," says Bendross, who hails from a Hollywood more famous for its rusty blades handled recklessly than for its silver spoons carefully placed in mouths, a la the one in California. "I kept asking myself, 'Why in the world won't they throw the ball to me?' I almost cracked. I honestly thought about going home. I was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. I was close to breaking, on the verge of totally cracking."

Bendross, who is now more contented, had at that time caught 11 passes as an Alabama player. He realized such numbers do not exactly enhance the chances of a National Football League career, and he almost threw up his hands, not to receive, but to quit.

It was then that Jeff Fagan, a senior running back at Alabama last season, plus a childhood friend, came to his emotional rescue. They had grown up two blocks apart in Hollywood, and their conversations on the matter were more family-like than teammate-like.

"I was ready to give up football until Jeff sat me down for a chat," says Bendross. "He told me how he, too, had been frustrated as a freshman. He told me to stay cool, to be patient, that things would eventually work out for me. He told me how he had wanted to run the ball more at Alabama, but that he had studied the situation and had decided that team wins are better than individual accomplishments."

"Because of that talk with Jeff, my good buddy, I decided to stay for my soph-



Jesse Bendross anxiously prepares for a Crimson Tide aerial. Bendross will likely have more opportunity to display his receiving talents when Alabama switches to a more aggressive passing game in 1983.

Spectrum-Southeast Photo

omore season. I decided to do exactly what he said, to be patient. He was right about all of that, thank goodness, and thank goodness I listened to him."

Such is the Genesis view of the making of a championship-caliber receiver, a biblical story about the creation of success through labor and patience. See, a trend has developed at Alabama in the last two seasons, and it hints strongly that the Crimson Tide offense is at its best

when Bendross has the football tucked under his arms, OR that he is capable of explosive, important performances.

Flashback: On November 14, 1981, Alabama played Penn State at University Park, Pennsylvania, and won 31-16. A national television audience watched as Bendross caught three passes for 55 yards and touchdowns of 37 and three yards, and coach Bryant tied Amos Alonzo Stagg as the winningest mentor in collegiate history.

Flashback: On November 28, 1981, Ala-

bama played Auburn at Birmingham and won 28-17. A national television audience watched as Bendross caught three passes for 76 yards and touchdowns of 26 and 38 yards, and coach Bryant broke the record set by Stagg with his 315th win.

Flashback: On January 1, 1982, Alabama played Texas in the Cotton Bowl at Dallas and lost 12-14. A national television audience watched as Bendross caught four passes for 78 yards a touchdown of six yards.

"Wow!" Bendross said after the Cotton Bowl. "I really hate to see the season end. I'm on a roll. I'm having a great time. I'm determined to have a carry-over into next season."

Flashback: On September 11, 1982, Alabama played Georgia Tech at Atlanta in a season-opening game and won 45-7. Bendross ran 58 yards for a touchdown on a flanker reverse in the second quarter, his sixth score in four games, and he caught a pass for 11 yards to help the Crimson Tide to another touchdown.

After that game, Bendross said, "The carry-over is here. It's complete. I feel just as good today as I did at the end of last season. I'm really looking forward to the next 11 games."

Alabama submitted four times in its last 10 games of the 1982 season, prompting coach Bryant to make room for a fresh face at the head of the program, but Bendross continued to show signs of greatness. During the season, he caught 28 passes for 550 yards and four touchdowns, despite being shut out against Penn State and Cincinnati. He had five runs for 91 yards and two touchdowns. He caught six passes for 98 yards in a heartbreaking 22-23 loss to Auburn, and he ran eight yards for a crucial touchdown in a 21-15 win over Illinois in the Liberty Bowl.

"I only wish I could have done more," says Bendross. "This season was disappointing for us. We all share in that. I expect us to bounce back next season, to do much better, and, just maybe, I'll contribute more to our success."

Indeed, Bendross, who has sprinter speed and soft hands, needs only to polish his abilities before entering the NFL. No question, he has the fight, the dedication and the determination to make it as a professional.

And, by all means, Hollywood nights as a kid helped him develop savvy. The Sunset Strip in his part of the country deals with stealing parts from parked cars, not swinging by day and night with the beautiful people.

"My Hollywood isn't anything like the one in California," says Bendross. "There's really no way to compare the

two. It's a tough place to grow up, a wicked city. I've seen people stabbed, people killed and people beat up. I've had good friends who turned to dope in big ways, but I always managed to avoid that. People always came up to me and said, 'Hey, Jesse, how about a hit off this J (a marijuana cigarette)?' But they'd always follow that with, 'Naw, that won't do, because Jesse is a big-time football star, who wants to become a pro.' That's true, I hope. I know that because I'm an athlete, people left me alone when trouble started. I'm glad of that. I've always tried to keep my nose clean.

"I'm not an angel, you understand, but I'm not a bad guy, either."

Interestingly, it was Fagan and a couple of his friends who made Bendross grow quickly, made him develop fight to accompany his pleasing personality. That happened when both of them were parts of a Miramar High School track team that struck fear in the hearts of its rivals.

"I was the youngster on our 'Three Js and a Q' lineup at Miramar," Bendross says about a relay team that consisted of

him, Fagan, Jeffrey Mack and Quintan Robinson. "I was a sophomore when we first got together, while the other guys were juniors. They tested my manhood, really gave me a hard time. They wanted to know if I could cut it in their cool group. I never buckled when times got rough, and, finally, they accepted me as part of them.

"Since then, Jeff and I have been like brothers. I really hate to see him graduate from Alabama, because he's my best friend. He's the guy I've always turned to with my problems, and I'm the guy he has always come to.

"The only time Jeff and I have gotten sideways is dealing with ladies. He has always thought of himself as a ladies' man, when, in reality, I'm the guy with all the charm. He has always used the educated approach in matters of romance, and I've always used the playboy approach.

"And if you'll take a good, hard look, you'll see that I'm obviously the best looking guy among us."

The magnetism of Bendross rests in his smile, which figures to be broader next

season. Already, Alabama has shown more of a willingness to pass the football. During the 1981 regular season, the Crimson Tide passed 111 times and completed 55 for 1,156 yards, 105.1 per game. During the 1982 regular season, Alabama passed 187 times and completed 115 for 1,697 yards, 154.3 per game.

Bendross and fellow split end Joey Jones, also a senior-to-be, caught 25 passes each during the regular season in 1982, with the latter piling up 502 yards and six touchdowns and the former piling up 499 yards and two touchdowns. Such balance is expected to prevail in 1983, with large numbers anticipated.

"Coach Perkins has that pass-oriented pro background, so I imagine we'll be pitching and catching more this year," said Bendross. "I welcome that, and I really expect us to be a more exciting, more explosive team under him. We've got the quarterbacks it takes to pass the ball effectively, as everybody knows, and I think we've got the people it takes to catch the football.

"It should be an exciting year, for sure, much better than the last one."

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Don Gambрил:

The Unanimous Choice

by Laurie Kiely

Nothing has ever been easy or has come naturally for Alabama head swimming coach Don Gambрил. Throughout his 25 years of coaching he has worked hard, been dedicated, and persevered. However, coach Gambрил's commitment to his profession made it easy, and those in the position to make the decision thought it only natural that coach Don Gambрил be inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

"There was no question in anyone's mind about whether coach Gambрил should be inducted. He was the unanimous choice of the selection committee. This respect is held by people throughout the swimming world," comments Buck Dawson, director of the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

"Don would have been inducted much sooner but there is a 25 years of coaching requirement before a person can be considered. As soon as he hit that mark this year, he became the overwhelming choice," says Dawson. "Longevity is an important requirement because so many coaches do well for a few years and then leave the profession. A coach must also have earned the respect of his peers and accomplished a great deal before he is eligible for consideration."

Coach Gambрил has proven himself worthy of induction on all accounts. This year he was named the 1984 United States Head Olympic Coach. Although his first

head Olympic position, Gambрил served as an Olympic assistant coach during the 1968 Games in Mexico City, the 1972 Games in Munich, the 1976 Games in Montreal, and was a staff member for the 1980 United States team that boycotted the Moscow Games. That year, Gambрил instead took a delegation of U.S. swimmers to compete in China.

Along with Gambрил's impressive list of Olympic credentials are numerous other head coaching appointments. He was coach of the U.S. squad at the World Aquatic Games in Berlin and has served as coach of two national squads at the Maccabian Games. In the summer of 1983 he was a member of the coaching staff at the National Sports Festival in Indianapolis.

The International Swimming Hall of Fame located in Fort Lauderdale, Florida each year honors those throughout the world who have excelled in swimming, diving, synchronized swimming, and water polo. There are three divisions: athletes, coaches, and major contributors. Coach Gambрил will be joining the company of such great swimmers as Mark Spitz and Johnny Weismuller, contributors Esther Williams and Buster Crabb, and coaches Jim "Doc" Counsilman of Indiana University and Stanford's George Haines, both past United States Olympic Coaches.

Coach Haines, a longtime colleague of coach Gambрил's, is among the thousands

who know and respect the work of Don Gambрил. "I have known Don since the early '60s and have admired him as a coach and a friend. We both started our coaching careers in football and I think it helped both of us in our success in swimming," comments coach Haines. "I have coached with him on international and Olympic teams and know he has the knowledge, the skills, and the ability to do what he thinks must be done to develop winners."

That he has done. Coach Gambрил has produced winners on every level of competitive swimming. His sparkling swimming history began when he exploded on the scene as the coach of the Phillips 66 Los Angeles City of Commerce Swim Club. That swim club won the national competition and produced more Olympians for the 1964 Olympics than any other squad. He began his college coaching career at Pasadena City College and started on his way to big time collegiate coaching with an incredible stint at Long Beach State. While at Long Beach, his teams amassed a 48-3 record and finished in the top five nationally in the 1968 and 1969 NCAA Championships, even though Long Beach State was considered only a college division team.

Recognized for his coaching skill and personal flair, coach Gambрил was then asked to head the Harvard University swimming program. During his two years at Harvard the team compiled a 14-4 dual

meet record, defeated Yale for the first time in 11 years, and finished 15th at the NCAA nationals.

"When I took the job at Harvard I was quite sure I wouldn't coach there for the rest of my life. I wasn't sure if I would go into business or try to get a job coaching at a higher level. I thought I would stay at Harvard more than two years but then the Alabama job came up and it was something I had dreamed about. It was a program with potential and the swimming in the Southeastern Conference was among the best in the nation. It was a challenge. I knew when I took the Alabama job I would be staying at Alabama."

Ten years ago coach Gambriel's winning ways landed at Alabama and have continued. In his first nine seasons Gambriel's teams compiled a 85-12 dual meet record and have finished in the NCAA top ten eight of the past nine years. The highest national finish was Alabama's 1977 second place finish.

While Gambriel has produced glowing team results, his swimmers' individual performances have been among the best in the world. Gambriel-coached swimmers have achieved over 20 world records, earned 10 Olympic gold medals, four Olympic silver medals, and have competed in world-wide swimming events representing 10 different nations. Coach Gambriel's Alabama swimmers have been named SEC individual and relay champions over 25 times, have gained All-America accolades more than 75 times, and four of his swimmers have earned the title of NCAA National Champion. His Crimson Tide swimmers have competed on numerous international teams. Coach Gambriel, who recruits the finest swimmers throughout the world to come and compete for Alabama, has had representatives on Olympic teams representing various countries in the past four Olympics and more are certain to make their respective teams in 1984. Alabama swimmers have also competed in the Pan-American Games and World Games.

"One of the reasons Don has been able to consistently produce successful swimmers has been his ability to change with the times," observes coach Haines. "Things have changed a lot over the past 20 years. The swimmers aren't apt to react to 'do it or else' threats. They are smarter and expect results from their hard work. Coach Gambriel has been able to give them results.

"I have coached with him on international teams and swimmers and coaches respect him because he is fair. He is able to combine his refined knowledge with



Alabama head swimming coach Don Gambriel, a 1983 inductee into the International Swimming Hall of Fame, tapes the elbow of his swimmer Marcello Juca before the start of practice. Gambriel's dedication and successes in the coaching profession led to the unanimous decision by the Hall of Fame's committee for his induction.

Joel Barnes Photo

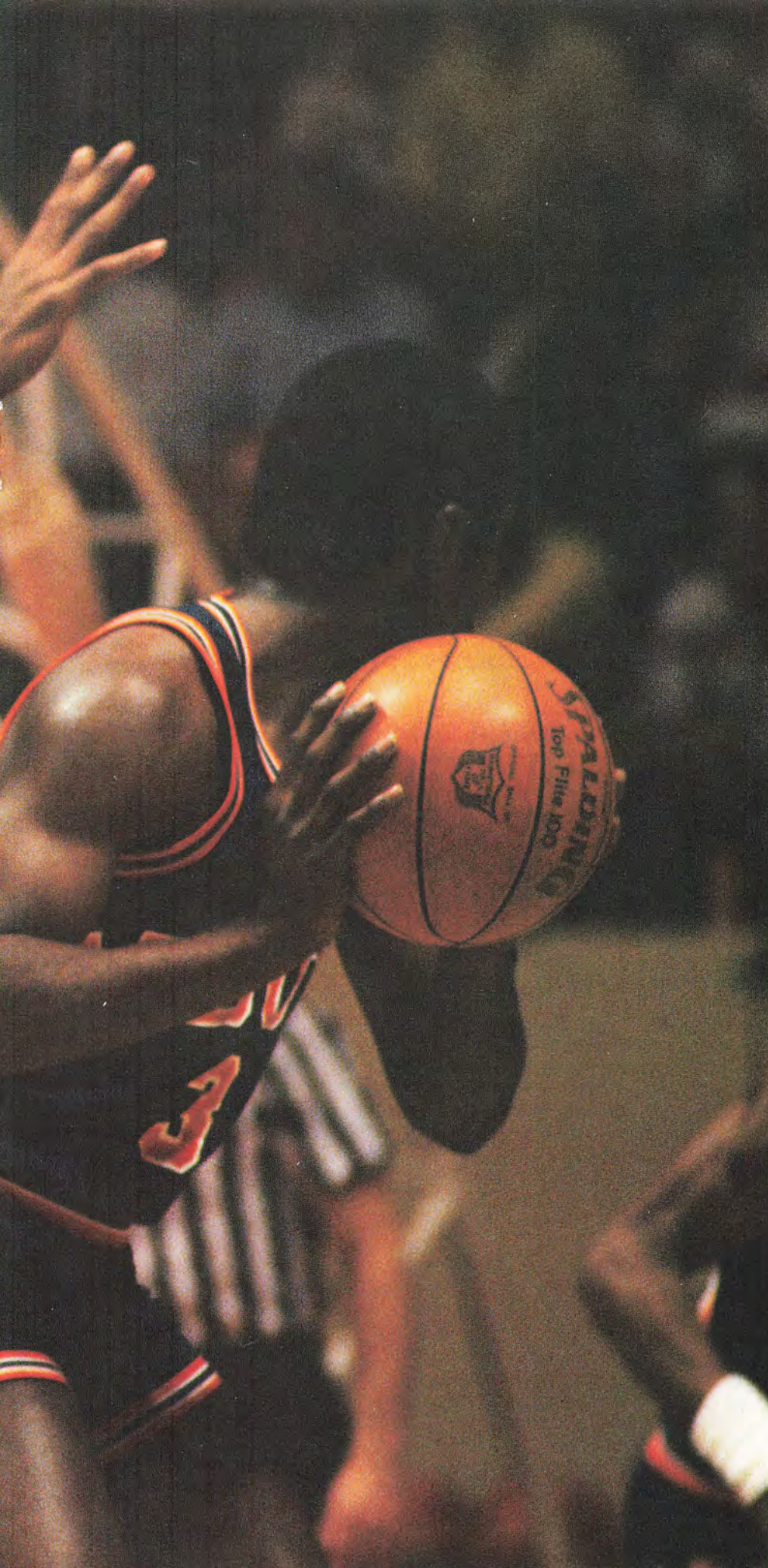
discipline and understanding. He has the qualities that everyone looks for in a coach."

Coach Gambriel will admit that changing with the times is not always the easiest thing to do. "I have known that I would have to adjust to the changes in the sport, as well as the changes in the kids. I have been disheartened at times but recently that has changed. The teams I have at Alabama now are among the most exciting I have had to work with in years. Both the men and women are dedicated, talented athletes. Seeing these kids perform and the coaching staff work together has given me a renewed spirit," reflects Gambriel.

It might appear that coach Gambriel's success story has been limited to swimming and more swimming. However, coach Gambriel is a devoted family whose wife Teddy, and three children, Kim, Troy, and Greg, have all made the road to success more enjoyable and meaningful.

"My wife Teddy and my children have always been very important to me and have contributed to my success by their continuous support and encouragement. My induction into the Hall of Fame (on May 4), although in my name, is a tribute to them and all the swimmers and coaches I have been associated with through the years. They are responsible for any success or honors I receive."





Ennis Whatley:

Alabama's Show Man

by Al Browning

Doug Layton, the veteran radio voice of Alabama basketball and football, made an interesting observation while addressing his listeners during a Crimson Tide game at Florida in early January.

"What a move by Whatley!" Layton said during that loss to the Gators. "Perhaps we should number his moves and then just say, 'Whatley makes Number 3 or Whatley makes Number 4' Unbelievable!"

Yes, Alabama sophomore guard Ennis Whatley has developed a wonderful basketball "Mo" Show that sports a sparkling glow. Certainly, it is on the offensive end of the court that he shines the brightest—that is where the numbers are produced—but by no means is he a one-trick pony. He is, in fact, a complete player who makes other point guards pale in comparison, even those who make money in the National Basketball Association.

"I'm just a normal player with a little extra ability, a gift I received from God," says Whatley, whose modest demeanor often leads to understatement.

But is there anything normal about a player who scores 31 points, has nine assists and blocks two shots in a single game? That is what Whatley did in a loss at Auburn two days after he scored 16 points at Florida.

As Alabama completed an 8-0 start this season by beating Southern Cal and Georgetown to capture the championship in the Winston Tire Classic at Los

Alabama sophomore guard Ennis Whatley uses his magic all over the court as an incredible dribbler, passer, shooter, and defender.

Crosby Thornley—University Relations Photo

Angeles, Whatley scored 20 points and had six assists in a victory over the Trojans, then scored nine points, had nine assists and had three blocked shots in a victory over the Hoyas.

"Never have I seen one player totally take charge of a game like Whatley did," said Stan Morrison, the Southern Cal coach. "He was fabulous."

The Los Angeles Lakers had a scout at that tournament, former playing great Jerry West.

"I'm not interested in dealing with any talk about the NBA now," says Whatley, "because helping Alabama win is what's in front of me at this moment and what's most important to me. I'll think about those decisions when the time comes. Right now, I'm letting (assistant) coach (Benny) Dees handle all that stuff. I don't even open the letters I get from some people (pro scouts and pro agents).

"I look forward to the day when I can play in the NBA. That's definitely my goal in life. But I'd like to take an education with me, and, of course, I've got a lot of work left to do at Alabama."

Whatley labors with the skill of a surgeon, with a gifted mind, otherwise known as court sense, and with hands that could pick open a safe at Chase Manhattan Bank.

Says coach Dees, who ranks as the chief confidant to an abundantly gifted player: "'Mo' is so good it's scary. He's one of the few players I've seen who can dominate a basketball game, even without scoring a point. If there's a better playmaking guard in the country, I haven't seen him. 'Mo' has a special sense about him on the court, the ability to know exactly what to do with the basketball at precisely the right moment. What people don't understand about 'Mo' is the completeness he has achieved as a player. His ball-handling speaks for itself, but that rascal can score and play defense, too.

"I'm continually amazed by what he does with the basketball. What seems impossible to other players, the tricky moves, seems easy to him. If the only way to get the basketball to a teammate is by dribbling it behind the back and through the legs, then bouncing it between the legs of an opponent, well, 'Mo' gets it done in simple fashion. Just when I think he can't do anything new, he surprises me.

"And as hard as it is to believe, the best of 'Mo' is still in front of him."

Already left in his wake are startling accomplishments, performances that not only make Alabama click, but also

make Crimson Tide fans marvel. Wendell Hudson, Leon Douglas, T.R. Dunn and Reggie King developed special rapport with Alabama loyalists, but never has a Crimson Tide player wooed them like Whatley has and will.

"I feel like I drove 60 miles with a worthless ticket."

That was the reaction of one Alabama fan who showed up at Memorial Coliseum for a game this season and discovered that Whatley was not in the starting lineup. It happened the sixth night of December, when coach Wimp Sanderson sentenced a star to non-starting status because he got so enthralled in watching a pro game on television that he missed curfew by a few minutes. The Crimson Tide won that game by 18 points, after the crafty ball-handler was given a reprieve from punishment about 11 minutes into the contest, with Alabama leading by only one point.

Whatley first showed Alabama fans his ability to dominate in the third game last season, when he scored 19 points in the second half to rally his team to a 95-93 victory over Texas Tech at Lubbock, after the Crimson Tide had trailed 52-48 at halftime.

A young child shall lead them? Yes, all the way to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Tournament—after a victory in the finals of the Southeastern Conference Tournament over and at Kentucky. Such was the case last year when Whatley started all 31 games, 24 of them victories, and averaged 12.1 points and 5.7 assists per game.

As on Broadway, opening night this season brought down the roof at Memorial Coliseum. In a 103-58 victory over Middle Tennessee State, Blue Raiders of the lost ark, granted, Whatley drove to the basket on a one-man fastback, dribbled his way to a 360-degree turn to shake a lone defender and, with the dominating grace of a power forward all alone for a slam dunk, made a reverse layup as his bewildered opponent lunged for air.

"The last person to make a move like that in this arena," said an Alabama fan at court-side, "was Pete Maravich when he played at LSU."

Whatley, unlike "The Pistol" of yesteryear, would rather deal than draw. So it is that his unselfish ways—he passed up two easy layup baskets to assist fellow guard Mike Davis to a couple back-to-back in one victory this season—have made him an ace in the hole when Alabama appears flushed.

"'Mo' plays with the good of our team at heart," says Davis, a senior with the same characteristic. "It's fun to be on the

court with him. When he gets the basketball in his hands, opponents get so caught up in trying to defend him that it makes it a lot easier for the rest of us to score. 'Mo' is a special talent, and everybody is finding out."

Whatley calls himself "normal."

Eric Richardson, an Alabama junior guard, who would be the starting point guard if you-know-who played elsewhere, is a little more open-minded when it comes to description.

"'Mo' is spectacular," says Richardson. "He's fantastic. He's super. There aren't enough big words in the dictionary to describe what he can do with a basketball."

Richardson, who is good enough to start at point guard at just about any other school in the conference, maybe all of them, has observed Whatley for many years. They were youth league rivals in Birmingham, then became close friends and more bitter adversaries in high school, Whatley starring at Phillips and Richardson starring across town at Carver.

"I'm glad 'Mo' is on my team now, even if it means I have to play behind him," says Richardson. "The problems I had with him as a kid and in high school, well, all of our opponents have them now."

"'Mo' and I were rivals as kids. He lived on one side of the city, while I lived on the other side of the city, and when we were 12 years old we came face-to-face on the court in a youth all-star game. He could handle a basketball back then. He even dribbled behind his back, which was almost unheard of in that league, and now I believe he can do tricks with a basketball blindfolded."

"No, I'm not the least bit jealous of what 'Mo' can do with a basketball, nor the exposure he receives because of his abilities. I'm happy we're together at Alabama, because that's something we used to dream about and talk about a lot. 'Mo' deserves all the publicity he gets, maybe more, because he's definitely the guy who makes our team go."

Whatley does his thing quietly and confidently. Against Louisiana Tech this season, he had a school-record 14 assists, eclipsing 13 produced by Ray Odums in 1972, then modestly accepted accolades—"I'm honored, because it was a record I wanted to establish"—and boldly set what seems to be an unattainable goal—"I'd like to get 20 assists one night."

Whatley is indeed a man of high aspiration and similar accomplishment, which

should make Alabama fans smile. The night he signed a Crimson Tide grant-in-aid, after averaging 24.9 points and 9.3 assists per game as a senior, he said, "I decided on Alabama because I want to be number one in basketball, and I think Alabama is the place I can accomplish that."

Alabama was ranked fifth in the nation before its back-to-back losses to Florida and Auburn, ranked second by *Sports Illustrated*.

"I think it's happening," says Whatley. "We've just got to keep it up. I'd like to see that (his quest for number one) through before I leave Alabama."

As Whatley shoots for the moon, with his teammates following his lead, Bobby Lee Hurt, an Alabama sophomore center with similar fame, hints that he has already experienced outer space.

"It's a privilege to play with 'Mo'," says Hurt. "He plays like he's from Mars or some place like that. He's out of this world. He's incredible."

As others watch him and cheer his exploits, Whatley allows himself the liberty to take part in childhood fancy, the freedom to idolize players he respects.

"As some kids look up to me because I play at Alabama, I look up to (Detroit Pistons guard) Isiah Thomas," Whatley said about a former Indiana University star who ranks as a figure of reference when comparisons are made. "I like his style of play, just as I like the way (University of Kentucky guard) Dirk Minniefield plays. It's a pleasure to play against people like Minniefield, because it's a test of my abilities."

"I've got changes to face now, and they help me get better. There's always room for improvement, and I think I'll make some. When the time comes, I hope I'm good enough to play against Isiah Thomas."

Whatley will remember the night of January 8 for a long time. That was the night Kentucky visited Memorial Coliseum—with Minniefield and others smiling on two consecutive Alabama losses.

And when the two heavyweight teams had played 35 minutes and 16 seconds, Kentucky led 63-58 and appeared on the verge of nailing Alabama to the wall it was leaning against in the conference race.

Boom! Whatley made a 25-foot jump shot to cut the lead to 63-60.

Blam! Whatley made another 25-foot jump shot to cut the lead to 63-62.

And Bing! After Davis made a jump shot from the corner to give Alabama a 64-63 lead, Whatley dribbled into the lane, turned sharply toward the basket and made an 8-foot jump shot that extended



The Crimson Tide's Ennis Whatley amazes opponents and fans with his outstanding basketball abilities. His performances have placed him among the best playmaking guards in the country.

Crosby Thomley—University Relations Photo

the lead to 66-63.

In the final four minutes and 31 seconds, Whatley scored nine points and he forced a turnover that led to another basket to pace the Crimson Tide to a 74-67 victory over the third-ranked team in the nation. Scoring 19 points and handing out seven assists, he did everything except sell concessions, including leading fans in cheers in the final minute by waving his arms over his head.

"I just tried to do what it took for us to win the game," Whatley says.

"The difference in the game was Whatley and their rebounding," says Minniefield, who scored 17 points and had four assists. "Whatley is a great player. Rarely do you find a point guard who can direct and offense and penetrate a defense and score. He does all of that for Alabama, and he also plays good defense."

Score one for Whatley over Minniefield, although they went head-to-head only eight minutes at the start of the game, before coaches made offensive and defensive adjustments.

The premier guards in the conference ran, dribbled, passed and shot, and then began looking forward to February 5, when they will again clash, in Lexington on national television.

By Easter, *Playboy* magazine, which dubbed Whatley as a preseason All-America and rewarded him with a trip to its mansion in Chicago, will know if one spectacular point guard can lead a young, talented supporting cast to championship laurels.

Already, Alabama fans are convinced that Whatley, a dribbler, passer, shooter and defender deluxe, can do unfamiliar things on the court.

Prep Prospects:

Out-Of-State Backs And Wide Receivers

by Kirk McNair

Probably no area of Alabama football recruiting has taken a bigger turn of interest in the weeks since coach Bryant announced his resignation and coach Perkins announced his intention of switching Alabama from a wishbone team to a prototype passing team than the emphasis on backs and ends. Coach Perkins has also set out on a course of recruiting nationwide, not just throughout Alabama and the surrounding states of the Southeastern Conference. However, there are a number of top prospects throughout the Southeast and Bama is concentrating on them as the February 9 signing date approaches.

Here is a look at some of the top backs and wide receivers in the Southeast. It must be kept in mind that not all are Alabama prospects and that there are almost certainly others who are being sought by Crimson Tide recruiters. These are men who are generally regarded in various publications as the top prospects. Information was provided by the players, their high school coaches, or by other publications. The only significance to the order of listing is alphabetical by states.

FLORIDA

Melvin Bratton, 6-2, 196, is a running back at Miami Northwestern. He runs a 4.5 40 and had 870 yards rushing as a senior, including one game of 230 yards. He was all-state this year.

Gerald Campbell, 5-11, 175, is a running back-defensive back at Fort Lauderdale Plantation. He runs a 4.6 40 and had a top game of 164 yards and two touchdowns rushing.

McCathorn Clayton, 6-0, 188, is a quarterback at Orlando Jones. He's an honor student and an all-around sports star who was third team all-state in football.

Reggie Corlew, 6-1, 190, is a running back at Niceville.



James Crawford

James Crawford, 6-1, 188, is a running back at Bradenton Manatee. As a senior he picked up 1,164 yards and 16 touchdowns on 200 carries.

Derrick Crudup, 6-2½, 187, is a quarterback at Boca Raton. He runs a 4.7 40 and has great ability both running and passing. He passed for over 1,000 yards as a senior.

Brent Fullwood, 6-1, 197, is a running back at St. Cloud who has been timed at 9.62 in the 100. He returned six kickoffs (three in one game) and three punts for touchdowns and had 1,355 yards on 176 rushes. He made All-America as a kick returner.

Mark Hardy, 5-11, 172, is a running back at Tarpon Springs. He had 1,049 yards on 182 carries. He runs a 4.5 40.

Gene Lawson, 5-11, 170, is a wide receiver at Fort Lauderdale Thomas. He runs a 4.6 40.

Barry Lett, 5-11, 170, is a split end at Pensacola Woodham. He led his team to the state championship game. He was first team all-state as a senior.

Darryl Mason, 6-0, 190, is a running back and cornerback at Fernandina Beach. He runs a 4.6 40 and also stars in basketball.

Danny McManus, 6-2, 180, is a quarterback at Hollywood South Broward. His brother, Jerry, played at Wake Forest.

Ricky Nattiel, 5-10, 172, is a quarterback at Newberry. He's particularly outstanding as a runner with his 4.4 speed in the 40.

Pat Pinner, 6-4, 200, is a quarterback at Lakeland Kathleen who is a top passer. He had a top game of 369 yards and four touchdowns passing. He was honorable mention all-state.

Johnny Ross, 6-3, 195, is a running back at Titusville who runs a 4.5 40. He rushed for 1,158 yards and 16 touchdowns on 151 carries as a senior.

Terrance Roulhac, 5-11, 180, is a wide receiver and defensive back at Jacksonville Raines. He averaged 23.6 yards per catch on 27 catches and had six touchdowns and also intercepted eight passes. He was all-state as a senior.

Mike Shula, 6-2, 185, is a quarterback at Miami Columbus. He passed (86 of 168 for 1,133 yards) his team to the state championship game. He made all-state. Coach Perkins is an acquaintance of his father, Don.

Tommy Streeter, 6-2, 190, is a defensive back at Miami Northwestern. He runs a 4.6 40 and is a two-year all-star, all-state as a senior.

Ricky Thomas, 6-1, 190, is a running back and defensive back at Niceville.

Gerald White, 6-1, 205, is a running back at Titusville. He runs a 4.6 40 and rushed for 1,588 yards and 21 touchdowns on 213 carries for the state champions.

Jarvis Williams, 6-0, 190, is a defensive back and wide receiver at Palatka. A two-year all-star, he is primarily known for



David Dukes

his defensive play, but had 11 pass receptions, including three for touchdowns, in one game this year.

GEORGIA

Joe Brooks, 6-3, 180, is a running back at Warner Robins. He runs a 4.6 40, not quite as fast as older brother James, formerly of Auburn and now of San Diego.

Doug Brown, 5-10, 175, is a quarterback at Buford whose favorite college player is Walter Lewis. He's a top passer, but can also run and had a 54-yard touchdown scamper. He also plays in the secondary.

Jeff Burger, 6-1, 195, is a quarterback at Cedartown. He was first team all-state as a senior and is considered an excellent option quarterback.

Murphy Campbell, 6-0, 195, is a running back at Douglas County in Douglasville. He runs a 4.5 40 and had a top game of 188 yards and three touchdowns rushing.

David Dukes, 6-0, 180, is a quarterback at Clarke Central in Athens. His father played at Georgia. David, who is also a punter, runs a 4.5 40. He also plays baseball.

Trey Gainous, 5-10, 175, is a wide receiver at Cairo. He was first team all-state as a senior.

Brad Griffin, 6-1, 175, is a running back and defensive back at Warner Robins. He runs a 4.6 40 and also does his team's punting.

Montie Henderson, 6-4, 215, is a quarterback and strong safety at Augusta Aquinas. His top game saw him pass for over 230 yards, rush for over 70.

Jerry Jones, 6-2, 215, is a running back and safety at Clarkston. He runs a 4.5 40 and also participates in basketball and as a track sprinter.

Chris Major, 5-10, 175, is a defensive back at Valdosta. He was first team all-state. He had five interceptions, but he's known primarily for his hitting.

Elbert Manning, 5-11, 185, is a defensive back at Norcross. He was honorable mention all-state as a senior.

David McCluskey, 6-3, 215, may seem familiar as he was listed as a linebacker prospect last month. However, he's also a top fullback at West Rome and made all-state at that position with his third straight 1,000-yard season.

Reggie McCord, 6-3, 180, is a wide receiver at Griffin. He runs a 4.6 40.

Greg Moore, 6-1, 225, is a fullback at Cartersville. He also plays linebacker. His father played football at Morris Brown and his brother plays at Jackson State.

Keith Moore, 6-1, 170, is a placekicker at Augusta Aquinas. He also plays defensive end. Keith is a top soccer player as well and his brother plays college soccer.

Warren Newson, 5-10, 175, is a running back at Newnan. He was all-state as a senior. He runs a 4.5 40.

Michael Parham, 6-3, 195, is a defensive back at Bremen. He runs a 4.6 40. He made all-state as a lineman, but is expected to be a strong safety.

Shelley Poole, 5-11, 210, is a tailback and linebacker at Norcross. He, too, made all-state as a linebacker, but is expected to be a strong safety. He runs a 4.6 40.

Rodney Renfroe, 6-1, 205, is a fullback at Albany. He also plays linebacker and runs a 4.6 40. He also plays baseball.

Sterling Sharpe, 6-0, 180, is a running back at Glennville. He went over the 1,000-yard mark with a 185-yard three-touchdown performance. He also plays basketball and runs track.

Andre Smith, 5-10, 190, is a running back at Coffee. He was Georgia back of the year this year with his 1,811 yards and 28 touchdowns. He averaged 9.4 yards offense for his career, getting 4,556 yards and 330 points on 486 plays.

Mike Smith, 6-0, 180, is a quarterback at Columbia in Decatur. He was honorable mention all-state as he passed for over 1,200 yards. He had a top game of 285 passing, 100 rushing.

Miles Smith, 6-0, 175, is a quarterback and defensive back at Roswell. He made all-state and All-America as a defensive back as he turned in seven interceptions. As a quarterback he rushed for 1,300 yards.

David Sosebee, 5-11, 175, is a split end and safety at Hart County in Hartwell. He runs a 4.7 40 and also runs track.

Bob Tardy, 6-1, 185, safety at Clarke Central in Athens. His brother, Chip, plays at Georgia. Bob also participates in baseball and track.

Reginald Thompkins, 6-0, 187, is a quarterback at Towers in Decatur. He was all-state as a senior as a top runner and passer. He's also an outstanding baseball player. Walter Lewis is his favorite college player.



Jerry Jones

Brant West, 6-3, 185, is a quarterback at Collins in College Park. He had a top game this year of 256 yards and two touchdowns passing. He also plays basketball and baseball.

David Williams, 6-0, 200, is a running back at Warner Robins. He was all-state as a senior as he rushed for 1,700 yards and 19 touchdowns.

Sammy Williams, 6-2, 200, is a running back at Gainesville. He was all-state as a junior and senior. He holds several school records as a track sprinter and also wrestles.

KENTUCKY

Cornell Burbage, 6-1, 175, is a defensive back at Lexington Bryan Station. He runs a 4.5 40 and is also considered a prospect as a wide receiver.

Chris Dishman, 6-1, 175, is a wide receiver and defensive back at Louisville DeSales. He runs a 4.5 40. He had 39 pass receptions for 901 yards, 10 touchdowns, and turned in four pass interceptions. He was all-state.

Marks Higgs, 5-8, 175, is a running back at Owensboro. He was all-state. He rushed 297 times for a 7.8 average and scored 29 touchdowns. He had a top game of 325 yards rushing and had two games of five touchdowns.

Darwin Isbell, 5-2, 205, is a running back at Madison Central. He was a four-year starter. Although he was injured both as a junior and senior, he had over 1,000 yards rushing each year.

Curtis Jeffries, 6-4, 210, is a wide receiver at Louisville Southern. He was all-state. He caught 66 passes for 1,260 yards and 16 touchdowns. He's also a top basketball performer.

Jeff Kremer, 6-3, 195, is a quarterback and safety at Highlands in Fort Thomas. He was a defensive back as a junior, played both ways as a senior as his team won back-to-back state championships. He had eight pass interceptions this year. He was all-state.

Jeff Kyle, 6-3, 191, is a quarterback and defensive back at Middlesboro. He



Jeff Kremer

was all-state. He passed for 1,180 yards and 11 touchdowns and ran for four touchdowns and also returned four punts for touchdowns. He had seven pass interceptions.

Tony Lanham, 6-1, 175, is a quarterback at Louisville Southern. He was all-state. He completed 145 passes for 2,209 yards and 26 touchdowns. He had two games of four touchdown passes.

Mark Logan, 5-11, 190, is a running back at Lexington Bryan Station. He was all-state. He runs a 4.4 40 and had 1,587 yards (7.1 average) and 14 touchdowns. He's also a track standout.

Jimmy Maddox, 5-11, 210, is a running back at Louisville Southern. He had 1,919 yards rushing and 20 touchdowns. He had two games of over 200 yards rushing. He was all-state.

Mike Robinson, 5-11, 180, is a running back at Newport Catholic. He runs a 4.5 40. He set school records of 2,957 yards career rushing and 303 yards single game rushing.

Allen Sexton, 6-0, 186, is a wide receiver at Somerset. He runs a 4.7 40 and was all-state as a linebacker, but played little defense as a senior. He runs a 4.6 40.

Derrick Thomas, 6-1, 205, is a running back at Tilghman in Paducah. As a junior he was all-state as a linebacker, but played little defense as a senior. He runs a 4.6 40.

Pete Wentworth, 6-2, 210, is a quarterback at Louisville DeSales. He completed 75 of 127 passes for 1,356 yards and had only two interceptions as a senior. He runs a 4.7 40.

LOUISIANA

Vincent Alexander, 5-11, 195, is a running back at Covington. He runs a 4.5 40 and was 4A offensive player of the year and a prep All-America. He rushed for 1,988 yards, 7.9 average and 25 touchdowns.

J.R. Ambrose, 6-0, 165, is a defensive back at Neville in Monroe. He is a two-time all-state selection. His brother plays at Tulane.



Larry Abney

Larry Abney, 5-11, 175, is a quarterback at Slidell. He led his team to victory over John Ehret, the only loss the state champions suffered. He was named all-metro, which includes New Orleans. He is a wishbone quarterback, but hit over 50 percent of his passes for over 1,000 yards.

Chris Carrier, 6-5½, 195, is a defensive back at Eunice. He has played as many as six positions in a game (quarterback, flanker, tight end, split end, safety and strong safety) and played three in leading his team to the state title. He's a two-year all-stater.

Eddie Foy, 5-11, 180, is a running back at McDonogh in New Orleans. He had a top game of 183 yards rushing. He is also a track standout with 4.5 speed in the 40.

Webster Garrison, 5-10, 160, is a quarterback at John Ehret in New Orleans. He completed 108 of 179 passes for 2,195 yards and 29 touchdowns as a senior. He was all-state.

Kevin Guidry, 6-2, 180, is a defensive back at Lake Charles. He runs a 4.6 40 and was all-state. He also plays tight end and wide receiver and does his team's placekicking.

Jonathan Hulbert, 6-2, 190, is a defensive back at McDonogh in New Orleans. He runs a 4.6 40.

Stan Humphries, 6-2, 210, is a quarterback at Southwood in Shreveport. He's a pro-set passing quarterback. He was honorable mention all-state.

Garland Jean-Baptiste, 6-1, 215, is a fullback at St. Martinsville. He was 3A all-state. He also plays linebacker and was named defensive player of the year. He runs the 100 in 10.1. He rushed for over 600 yards and made 134 tackles.

Norman Jefferson, 5-10, 170, is a defensive back at John Ehret in New Orleans. He runs a 4.4 40 and is capable of playing every skill position. He is a two-time all-stater who was 4A defensive player of the year.

Oscar Joiner, 5-10, 180, is a running back at Leesville. He averaged 14 yards



Chris Carrier

per carry as a junior, but had a knee injury as a senior. He has 4.5 speed in the 40 and is running track.

Rogie Magee, 6-4, 185, is a wide receiver and defensive back at Bogalusa. He was all-state. He caught 50 passes for over 840 yards and 13 touchdowns as a senior.

Tyrone Vaughans, 6-0, 175, is a wide receiver at John Ehret in New Orleans. He is a two-year all-state performer. He caught 48 passes for 1,122 yards and 21 touchdowns. He finished his prep career with 3,524 yards and a national record 60 touchdowns.

Nathaniel Williams, 5-9, 170, is a running back at Ferriday. He was a two-year all-state performer in 2A and offensive player of the year both as a junior and senior. He rushed for 2,145 yards and had 34 touchdowns and 26 two-point conversions as a senior. As a junior he scored 42 touchdowns and 300 points, both state records. For his career he had 5,376 yards, 90 touchdowns and 660 points.

MISSISSIPPI

Byron Barney, 6-0, 175, is a defensive back at Gulfport. He was named all-state as a linebacker. Nicknamed "Bye-Bye," he's former pro star Lem Barney's cousin. He was injured his junior year after a fine soph season.

Edgar Chambers, 6-1 180, is a defensive back at Moss Point.

Louis Clark, 6-2, 205, is a split end and defensive back at Shannon in Tupelo. He runs a 4.4 40 and is also used at running back and tight end. His top game saw him catch five passes, two for touchdowns, and turn in three interceptions. His brother plays baseball at Jackson State.

Ronnie Ducksworth, 6-2, 208, is a running back at West Jones in Soso. He was back of the year as he picked up 1,601 yards, a 6.1 average, and scored 30 touchdowns. As a junior he had over 2,000 yards rushing.

Johnny Gussio, 5-11, 180, is a running back at St. Aloysius in Vicksburg.

Kirby Jackson, 6-1, 185, is a quarter-



John Beard

back and defensive back at Sturgis. He earned all-state honors as a senior on defense.

Andrew Mott, 6-0, 180, is a defensive back at Hattiesburg. He had 10 interceptions as a senior and returned four of them for touchdowns. He was all-state. He's also an outstanding baseball player.

Calvin Robinson, 5-11, 185, is a running back at Eupora. He rushed for over 1,800 yards as a senior and was all-state.

Don Smith, 6-2, 185, is a quarterback at Hamilton. He has quarterbacked his team to 26 consecutive victories and back-to-back state championships. He was all-state as he passed for over 2,000 yards.

TENNESSEE

John Beard, 6-0, 195, is a defensive back at Riverdale in Murfreesboro. He was all-state on defense, turning in 48 tackles, 18 assists and four of his 23 career pass interceptions as a senior. He also saw duty at quarterback (301 yards passing, 5.3 rushing average) and wide receiver (28 catches, 462 yards as a senior, 90 receptions, 1,665 yards career).

Charles Benton, 6-1, 189, is a defensive back at Rhea County. He was all-state. He had five interceptions, one for a touchdown, and 47 tackles. He had 359 yards rushing, 131 receiving.

Chip Carnes, 5-11, 165, is a quarterback at Red Bank. He was second team all-state. He runs a 4.5 40. His top game saw him get 106 yards on 10 rushes and 118 yards and two touchdowns on five of six passes.

Vince Carter, 6-3, 210, is a defensive back at Overton in Nashville. He was honorable mention all-state.

Armando Fitz, 6-3, 190, is a wide receiver at Goodpasture in Madison. He runs a 4.56 40 and was honorable mention all-state.

Charles Greenhill, 6-2, 205, is a defensive back at Frayser in Memphis. He was player of the year in Tennessee. He

played quarterback, tailback, wide receiver, defensive back, punter, kicker and returner. He rushed for 969 yards, scored 52 points, passed for three touchdowns, caught two touchdown passes, kicked three field goals and 15 extra points. He averaged nine tackles per game and had four interceptions.

Tim Johnson, 5-11, 185, is a running back and defensive back for Lincoln County in Fayetteville. He was all-state. He had a top game of 177 yards on 17 carries.

Tim Jones, 6-1, 180, is a quarterback at Brentwood Academy. He was all-state as he led his team to its third straight state title. He hit 107 of 167 passes for 2,141 yards and 24 touchdowns and had only five interceptions. His teams had a record of 51-3.

Andre Laird, 6-2, 175, is a quarterback at East in Memphis. He was named 3A all-state. He runs a 4.7 40.

Tony Miller, 6-2, 195, is a quarterback and safety at Father Ryan in Nashville. He runs a 4.6 40. His brother, Jim, plays football at Tennessee.

Toby Pearson, 6-1, 175, is a split end and defensive back at Morristown East. He was all-state on offense as he became the first wide receiver in state history to gain over 1,000 yards receiving (64 catches, 1,078 yards, nine touchdowns). He was 3A player of the year.

Randy Samples, 5-11, 195, is a quarterback and defensive back at Bishop Byrne in Memphis. He has been all-state in both football and baseball and also plays basketball. His top game this year saw him rush for 193 yards and throw a 66-yard touchdown pass.

Joey Underhill, 5-11, 170, is a quarterback and defensive back at Memphis Sky-View. He earned all-star honors on defense. In one game this year he hit 18 of 24 passes for 227 yards and two touchdowns and also ran for one touchdown.

Jeff Walker, 5-11, 170, is a defensive back at Franklin County. He was all-state. He had two interceptions, 30 tackles and 44 assists. He also returned kicks. As quarterback, he rushed for 558 yards and six touchdowns and passed for 702 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Kenny Weatherspoon, 5-11, 180, is a running back at Stratford in Nashville. He was all-state as he became Nashville's all-time rushing leader with 3,661 yards. He had 199 carries for 1,530 yards and 24 touchdowns as a senior.

Kenny Willard, 6-1, 183, is a split end at West in Knoxville. He had 39 catches for 521 yards. He also completed four of seven passes for 109 yards and three touchdowns. On defense he had 20 tackles (two for safeties) and 19 assists.



Carl Woods

He also returned kicks, one punt and one kickoff each going for touchdowns.

Carl Woods, 6-0½, 190, is a running back at Gallatin. He was all-state as he rushed for 1,953 yards, averaging 6.2 per carry. He had over 4,000 yards rushing in three years. He also plays cornerback on defense.

Out-Of-Southeast Possibilities

Various publications have linked a dozen or so prospects from out of the states comprising the Southeastern Conference with Alabama. These may or may not be interested in the Tide, and vice versa. However, alphabetically by states, they include:

Dean Hankins, a 6-2, 192-pound running back from Montrose, Colorado.

Robb Carey, a 5-11, 190-pound running back from Wilmington, Delaware.

From New Jersey, **Jim Finnegan**, a 6-1, 185-pound quarterback from Mays Landing, and **Derek Andrews**, a 6-3, 198-pound fullback from New Brunswick.

From Syracuse, New York, **Billy Owens**, a 6-2, 185-pound running back, and **Hank Flournory**, a 6-3, 220-pound running back.

From North Carolina, **Keith Lawrence**, a 6-3, 190-pound back from Statesville, and **Mark Maye**, a 6-4, 195-pound quarterback from Charlotte.

From Ohio, **John Moore**, a 6-2, 218-pound running back from Dayton, and **Mark Smith**, a 6-1, 195-pound quarterback-defensive back from Columbus.

Wes Pryor, 6-0, 180, a running back and defensive back from DeSoto, Texas.

From Virginia, **Bryant Covington**, a 5-10, 185-pound wide receiver and defensive back from Danville; **D.J. Dozier**, a 6-2½, 193-pound running back from Virginia Beach; and **Kevin Ferguson**, a 6-2, 195-pound quarterback from Appomattox.

History of Alabama Athletics:

The Incredible Whatley of Yesteryear

by Laurie Kiely

Impossible. If an athlete today were to attempt to equal what Jim Whatley achieved in 1936 it would be infeasible. For Jim Whatley graduated from the University of Alabama in 1936 after earning 10 varsity letters. He not only collected an amazing 10 letters but did so while competing on six Southeastern Conference championship teams and a national championship football team. Based on this unparalleled achievement, it is no wonder Whatley is considered Alabama's best all-around athlete ever.

Whatley earned three letters in football, basketball, and baseball. His tenth letter was awarded in track the last semester of his senior year. So, from the August days of football training to the May days of baseball and track, Whatley was always competing.

Whatley's autumns were spent on the football field as a star tackle for the Crimson Tide. During those football seasons he helped the Tide to two SEC championships and the 1934 national championship.

One of Whatley's more renowned teammates, Riley Smith, the All-America quarterback on the Tide's 1935 squad, remembers the athletic ability of Whatley. "Jim was certainly a man of great athletic ability and a heck of a nice guy. I think what I remember most of his football playing days was his game against Georgia in 1935," says Smith. "In the middle of the game Jim got hit in the eye. He couldn't see a thing. He said to coach Crisp, 'my



Jim Whatley

eye, my eye' to which Crisp responded 'you have another one don't you?' Whatley went crazy, it really motivated him. He started knocking passes down like you have never seen before. All he needed was something to get him started."

The Crimson Tide won that Georgia game 17-7 behind the swatting of Whatley, an all-conference pick that season. After that game, sportswriter Morgan Blake described Whatley's play

as follows:

"For several years we've been believing Jim Whatley, Alabama tackle and basketball center, was just nine feet tall. After seeing him in action against Georgia, we finally realized he is fourteen foot tall. This human skyscraper was the greatest impediment to a successful forward pass attack Georgia ever faced. He knocked down so many passes that we lost track of count. When he came in throwing up those arms he seemed to reach up as high as the top of the stadium. Jim Whatley is our nomination for tackle on the All-America football team. . ."

"I remember that football game well," says Whatley, who now resides in Athens, Georgia. "But I think the biggest thrill I had while playing football was winning that 1934 Rose Bowl over Stanford. I was playing with some pretty incredible guys like Don Hutson, Dixie Howell, and Bill Lee. That win meant the world to all of us."

After winning the 1934 Rose Bowl which helped the Crimson Tide to the national football championship, most of the team rode the train back to Tuscaloosa. But not Whatley, line coach Crisp and three other players. Basketball season had begun and Crisp was the head basketball coach, Whatley was the Tide's star center and three other football players also played on the hardcourt. They jumped off the train in New Orleans

to play the opening games of the 1934-35 season.

"The trip was exhausting. We got off that train and played Tulane and beat them twice and then went to LSU and lost by a point both nights," says Whatley.

"Jim was a good football player but he was terrific in basketball. In those days there weren't many guys as tall as Jim and even fewer who had his basketball skill," remembers Smith.

They called him "Big Jim," some even referred to him as "Frankenstein." In 1935 a 6-4, 215, Whatley was considered a giant and played basketball as such. As Alabama's center he led the 1934 team to the Southeastern Conference Tournament Championship. That year Whatley was named to the all-conference squad, collecting more votes than any other player. In 1935 the tournament was not played. Then in 1936 Whatley repeated as an all-conference pick. Although the Tide lost to Tennessee in the final game of the tournament, Whatley still shone as one of the finest players in the conference.

Spring meant baseball for Whatley. "I remember one year I was having trouble with my appendix all during football and basketball season. I had an appendectomy after basketball season but was ready to play baseball. I didn't even miss one game."

While Whatley was at Alabama, as a star first baseman, the Tide captured three SEC championships. It was during Whatley's senior year he decided to earn one more letter in one more sport.

"I competed on the track team as a discus thrower. I remember the coaches really wanted me to get that tenth letter," says Whatley. "I played a game of baseball one afternoon in New Orleans and later that day I was on a plane heading for the conference track championships in Atlanta. That was quite an effort by my coaches to get me to that meet. I did well enough at the championships to earn that letter."

"All those letters mean a lot to me but I think, now, more than ever, having that opportunity to go to school was the most important thing in my life," comments Whatley. "I went to school at Alabama because they offered me a scholarship and I had always wanted to go there. I was living in Alexander City (Alabama) at the time but was born in Tuscaloosa. I was in school during the real depression so that the fact that I had three meals a day was a blessing. I enjoyed playing sports but graduating was my biggest accomplishment."

After Whatley graduated he took his



Alabama's Jim Whatley, the Tide's best all-round athlete ever, lettered ten times in four sports while at the University. He earned three letters in football basketball, baseball and one in track.

University of Alabama photo

athletic ability elsewhere. He played baseball for three years with the Brooklyn Dodgers and then coached football, basketball, and baseball for three years at West Carolina University. After serving in the United States Navy during World War II he joined the coaching staff at Ole Miss where he served as an assistant football coach and head baseball coach. Then in 1950 he headed for the University of Georgia and had triple coaching duties as an assistant football coach, head basketball coach, and head baseball coach. He continued coaching football until 1961 and then dedicated himself solely to baseball coaching until his retirement in 1975. Under coach Whatley, the Bulldog baseball teams won the SEC title both in 1953 and 1954.

Whatley, the coach, and Whatley, the athlete, is quick to point out why an athlete could not do what he did at Alabama. "First of all, athletes start specializing in a certain sport very early in

life. They decide they are going to play basketball in the junior high and stick with it through high school and college. The athlete is more developed and coached better in the sport he chooses.

"Another difference is that the competition in each sport is much more fierce. There are more great athletes competing for the same number of spots as were available when I was playing. Also, the seasons overlap more too, so when one season is only half over, another one is starting. I don't think it would be possible to letter in more than two sports. When I was doing it my coaches were encouraging me. Today I think coaches are more likely to discourage it."

Although conditions have changed so that a multi-letterman is an unlikely possibility, conditions never guaranteed that earning 10 letters in four different sports was a feat easily accomplished. After all, Jim Whatley, is the only athlete in Alabama sports history ever to do so.

BAMA SCORECARD

Swimmers Smash Auburn

Both the men's and women's swimming teams registered exciting wins over the War Eagles. The women began the "Beat Auburn" weekend off with a convincing 92-57 win, sparked by several NCAA qualifying performances. The men thrilled a jam-packed Alabama Aquatic Center audience as the meet came down to the final relay, the Tide pulling it out to win 62-51.

The wins by both squads were testimony to the fine coaching of head coach Don Gambril, (see page 14) who was unable to attend the meets. He had been hospitalized earlier in the week after complaining of chest pains. Gambril will return to the deck soon, after his recovery from treatment to clear a blocked artery.

The men's win over Auburn was positive evidence of the Tide's potential. The Crimson Tide men are ranked anywhere from sixth to eighth in various polls, and they are ranked third behind Florida and Auburn in the Southeastern Conference, whose championship meet they won in Tuscaloosa last year.

The SEC Championships will be March 4-6 at Tennessee. The NCAA Championships will be March 27-29 at Indianapolis, Indiana.

Swimming World magazine ranks Texas number 1, SMU number 2, California-Berkeley number 3, Stanford number 4, UCLA number 5 and Alabama number 6. Florida, which the Crimson Tide defeated in a dual meet earlier this season, is ranked eighth, and Auburn is ranked 11th.

Alabama is to swim at Tennessee in an important dual meet February 5. The Crimson Tide has won the last two dual meets against the Vols, both by 82-31 scores, and is the only team that has beaten Tennessee in a dual meet at Knoxville during the reign of coach Ray Bussard there.

Florida is favored to win the SEC Cham-

pionships for both men and women, and the Lady Gators are expected to win the NCAA Championships. And while Florida signed 13 freshman men in what is considered the top recruiting class in history, Alabama has picked up a pair of West Germans who are expected to help its cause.

Gerald Schlupp is a member of the West German Olympic Team. He is a middle-distance freestyle and butterfly ace, who is also impressive in the 400-meter Individual Medley. He became eligible during semester break.

Doris Wiebke ranks number five in the world in the 200-meter butterfly. A member of the West German National Team, she is also good in the middle-distance freestyle events, which should strengthen the Alabama women.

Elias Finished

Alabama noseguard John Elias has been listed as having another year of eligibility in all Tide official publications. However, he has used all his eligibility and will not be back with Bama in 1983.

Women Scholar-Athletes

Concentration on academics brought success to 26 women athletes who registered B or better averages during the fall semester. Four tennis players, six gymnasts, five golfers, five tracksters, and six women on the swimming and diving team earned these grades. Of these, five gymnasts, three on the swimming and diving squad, and one athlete on each of the track, golf, and tennis teams, recorded grades high enough to qualify them for the Dean's List.

Victories Over DePaul & Notre Dame

The highlight of the women's basketball season this season so far is the successful swing through the Midwest as the Tide defeated DePaul and Notre Dame. They began in Chicago with a 82-66 win

over the Lady Blue Demons and then traveled to South Bend and smashed Notre Dame 71-56.

The highlight of junior Cassandra Crumpton's season is her record breaking 34 point performance against LSU. Although the tide lost, Crumpton entered the Tide record books as the highest single game scorer and set a Memorial Coliseum record.

Golf Swinging

71-10.

How is that for a golf record during a fall campaign?

Alabama coach Conrad Rehling thinks that is good, although it was produced in only four tournaments, one of them won by the Crimson Tide.

"That's our record against every team we were up against during the tournaments," says coach Rehling, "and it's encouraging to me. We had two fourth-place finishes and a sixth-place finish to go with our win, which makes me excited as we enter our normal spring schedule.

"Also, we've got four seniors who have played extremely well for us, Steve Lowrey, Lee Rinker, Tom Garner and Tom Brennan, and (sophomore) Griff Rudolph is much improved over last season. Such experience is important.

"This could be my best team at Alabama."

Lowrey, who won the Memphis State Invitational and the Dixie Classic during the fall, is the reigning Alabama Open and Alabama State Amateur champion. Rinker is the reigning Florida State Amateur champion. Garner finished third in the last Florida Open, and he is the reigning Orange Bowl Tournament champion.

Alabama opens its spring schedule February 18-20 in the Gator Invitational Tournament at Florida. Twenty teams are entered.

The Southeastern Conference Tournament will be played at West Lake Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia in May.

Tennis Ranked

Alabama tennis, with its normal international flavor, is being touted at the national level. In a poll of coaches conducted by Tennis USA, the Crimson Tide men are ranked 16th best team in the country.

Two other Southeastern Conference teams received top 20 rankings in the poll, Georgia 10th and Tennessee 17th.

Track Potential

One of the leading sports magazines in the nation, *Track and Field News*, does not list Alabama as one of the top 10 outdoor teams in the country this year. That could be a mistake, because the Crimson Tide has a wide assortment of proven talent in its camp as it runs toward the Southeastern Conference Indoor Championships the last week of February at LSU and the National Indoor Championships the second week of March at Pontiac, Michigan, and into the outdoor season.

Spring could be as rewarding to Alabama in track and field as it could prove surprising to the so-called experts who rank teams.

"We've never been known as a great indoor team, nor as a fast-starting outdoor team," says John Mitchell, the Alabama track coach. "I'm sure that'll hold true again this year, although I honestly think we'll be much improved in the indoor meets at Baton Rouge and Pontiac."

"What we're really shooting at is the SEC Outdoor Championships and the NCAA Championships. In all my years of coaching at Alabama, this is the hardest working team I've had. It's promising, too, and we have some lofty goals set."

Alabama is strengthened by a couple of transfers who became eligible when the second semester of classes started in early January. They are Vestenin Hafstiensson, a discus thrower from Iceland, and Terry Menefee, a middle-distance runner and intermediate hurdler from Illinois State.

"There's no doubt, an injury notwithstanding, that Vestenin will win the discus event at the SEC Outdoor Championships," Mitchell says of Hafstiensson, who has a personal best of 193 feet in the event. "Terry should be a dandy, too, a points man who will strengthen us considerably."

Vestenin Hafstiensson is the brother of Thrainn Hafstiensson, who is an Alabama decathlete, who is married to Disa Gisladdottir, who ranks as the first and only female NCAA champion from the Crimson Tide program. She is a high jump specialist.



William Wuyke (above), a sophomore from Venezuela, opened the indoor track season in sizzling style with a record time in the 1,000 of 2:08.07 in the Eastman-Kodak Invitational at East Tennessee State. Wuyke defeated a field that included the current NCAA national record-holder and the NCAA's defending 800 champion. Tide head coach John Mitchell said he would recommend to associate athletics director Sam Bailey that the entire Bama track team have the same training next year that Wuyke had prior to the season-opening meet. Wuyke spent the holiday break in Acapulco. Other Tiders also opened strong. Sprinter Emmitt King successfully defended his victory in the Invitational 60 defeating Herschel Walker of Georgia and Harvey Galance, formerly of Auburn, in 6.17, and Calvin Smith won the collegiate division 60 with a 6.25 time. Woman high jumper Disa Gisladdottir, defending NCAA outdoor champion, won with a record leap of 6-0.

University of Alabama Photo

Baseball Is Set

Alabama baseball, possibly on the verge of an outstanding season, has taken on a few new looks, some simply cosmetic at Sewell Field and some in the area of talented personnel.

The center field fence at Sewell Field now sports a backdrop that should help batters. It was donated by John Peck, a Florida businessman who was catcher on an Alabama Southeastern Conference championship team in 1968.

In early April, when members of the 1950 Alabama baseball team, the only group to ever represent the school in the College World Series, have a reunion on campus, a bust of former Crimson Tide coach Tilden "Happy" Campbell will be unveiled. The bust is valued at \$10,000, and it will find a permanent home at Sewell Field.

In the area of personnel, Alabama has international flavor in its double-play combination, with sophomore shortstop Craig Shipley of Australia and junior second baseman Furman Lake of Aruba doing the honors. Also, Thomas Wilson of Canada has transferred into the Crimson Tide program. He is expected to be used as a designated hitter in his freshman season.

Interestingly, Shipley and Wilson both

participated in the World Friendship Series, an event staged in 1981 that attracted teams from 11 nations. They were captains of their respective teams.

Alabama opens its baseball season in Tuscaloosa on February 22, when it hosts North Alabama. The first SEC game of the season will be played March 5, when the Crimson Tide goes to Starkville, Mississippi, for a three-game series with Mississippi State.

Alabama and Auburn, by the way, will play seven games against each other this season, instead of the customary six. The state rivals have scheduled a game March 31 at Rickwood Field in Birmingham.

"We have a lot of supporters in Birmingham who say they cannot make a lot of our games in Tuscaloosa," says coach Barry Shollenberger, who admits optimism at the start of another Alabama season. "The game against Auburn in Birmingham will give them a good chance to see us in what should be an exciting contest. I hope we have their support that day, because it is Auburn that we have to play."

The extra game will not count in SEC standings.

Three In A Row

'BAMA senior writer Al Browning has been named sportswriter of the year for Alabama for the third year in a row by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association.

The organization, based in Salisbury, North Carolina, also announced that Phil Snow of WSFA-TV in Montgomery had been named Alabama's sportscaster of the year.

A native of Brewton and a graduate of the University of Alabama, Browning is a veteran sportswriter, editor and columnist. Prior to joining 'BAMA last summer he served as sports editor of the *Tuscaloosa News* for three and a half years. In addition to his honors from the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association, Browning has received awards from a number of professional organizations, including the Alabama Sportswriters Association, the Alabama Press Association, and the Associated Press. He is also author of the book on Alabama bowl history, *Bowl, Bama, Bowl*.

Members of the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association in each state choose their state's representatives. In addition, two national winners are selected in nationwide balloting.

Browning and his wife, Sissie, will be honored by the association in Salisbury in March, along with all other winners.

Letters To The Editor

Dear 'BAMA:

I have heard some rumors in the Montgomery area that three Clemson University football players are going to transfer to Alabama under the NCAA rule that allows players to transfer from schools on probation without loss of eligibility for a year.

One of the players is supposedly Terrence Flagler, the running back from Fernandina Beach; the other the big nose guard; and a wide receiver.

Any truth to this?

Jimmy White
Prattville

No.

Dear 'BAMA:

Will you be so kind as to furnish me the following information on Eddie Salem:

What years did he play for Bama? Who was the head coach? What formation(s) did they use? What position in the backfield did he play?

B. Earl Bowden
Columbus, Georgia

Eddie Salem was left halfback in the Notre Dame box formation. He played for coach Harold "Red" Drew, lettering in 1948-49-50 and earning All-America as a senior. The left halfback position in the Notre Dame box is similar to the tailback position in the single wing in that the left halfback usually handled the center snap and was responsible for most running and passing plays. Salem was also a kicker.

Dear 'BAMA:

Regarding a statement in 'BAMA that Alabama's defense was the real culprit in regard to this season's less than average performance: It should be noted that the defense, due to the offense's inability to hold onto the football and sustain long drives, spent more time on the field. I think a survey of total time spent on the field by the defense, opposed to points scored, should be calculated in order to compare this year's defensive team to those of the past.

Further, it was stated that Alabama should hope that Penn State defeats Georgia so we can claim to have defeated the National Champions. Granted Georgia is one of my least favorite SEC teams. However, they are a member of the SEC and therefore should be supported by all teams in the conference. Their ranking of number one may have hurt us in regard to recruiting. However, we should support the SEC and exhibit the class normally associated with The University.

James R. Hambric III
Tillar, Arkansas

It's difficult to assess blame or give credit completely in the matter of time of possession because it is a function of both the offense and the defense. If the offense does its job it will be on the field a great deal; if the defense does its job it will not. It is fact that the Bama defense gave up long scoring drives against all four teams that defeated Bama. The Tide did average slightly more time of possession than opponents, 31:36 to 28:24.

As for having hopes of what will happen in a football game, it has seemed over the years (though not recently) that often games in which Alabama was not playing have turned out in a way to benefit the Tide in the national polls or conference standings. For that reason we Alabama partisans may have come to believe that what we hope will happen will; of course that's not the case. There's probably something to be said for conference loyalty, but that was not the reason for the formation of the Southeastern Conference. As a matter of fact the members of the SEC are intense rivals in athletics; and for one to do well has little if any bearing on the well-being of any or all of the others. Georgia has an advantage in recruiting because of the population of its state (above and beyond the advantage it was caught taking during the 1982 recruiting season). Alabama's advantage has been, in addition to coach Bryant, its regional and national reputation as the best team in the area. Its new advantage is coach Perkins' reputation and his association with professional football. Among high school players, many of whom have followed college football for only a few years, Alabama's reputation is in jeopardy because of Herschel Walker. Prior to Georgia getting Walker the Bulldogs were the fifth winningest team in SEC history; now they are fourth and closing on third (although they are far behind number one Alabama). In his first 16 years as head coach Vince Dooley had three seasons in which he won SEC championships and five seasons in which he lost five or more games. Now he has won three more league championships, increased his winning percentage from 69 to 72, and won a national championship. Even after Herschel is gone Georgia will reap the benefits of his era for many years because of recruiting. To our knowledge Alabama had attempted to recruit only one Penn State player (flanker Kenny Walker); dozens of those playing for the Bulldogs had been recruited unsuccessfully by Bama.

Along the same lines, some Alabama partisans were distressed that the Alabama basketball team wore tee shirts at Penn State wishing the Lions good luck in the Sugar Bowl. Over the years Alabama teams in sports other than football (and particularly basketball) have played in most hostile environments because fans at rival schools wanted to see revenge from football losses extracted from other Alabama teams. Such was the atmosphere at Penn State until Tide players took off their warmups. Alabama may or may not have defeated Penn State in basketball without the ploy; it was coach Sanderson's judgment that it would help his team and he's paid to coach Alabama's basketball team to wins, not support the SEC. Georgia fans' retaliation in Athens was no worse than the situation is there ordinarily.

Dear 'BAMA:

What did replays show on Jeremiah Castille's pass interception/interference against Auburn? Also, what about Joey Jones' sidelines catch that was ruled incomplete? Also, Bo Jackson's attempted dive for the winning touchdown?

R. L. Brannon
Ft. Myers, Florida

Two points must be made first. One, there's no sense crying over spilt milk. Two, officials must make immediate decisions without aid of replays.

Pass interference is a judgment call. When Alabama assistant coach Louis Campbell graded films he felt that Castille had not made an error, that he played the football correctly and made a good interception. Ordinarily a player would receive a double minus for committing pass interference and would receive a double plus for making an interception. Castille was given no grade on the play. Former Tide assistant Bobby Marks said that Jones had one foot in bounds and that, in his judgment, the pass should not have been ruled incomplete. The angle of the shot from the press box does not make it possible to determine from films if Jackson got the ball over the goalline. 'BAMA senior writer Al Browning was standing on the goalline and he believes that Jackson did get the ball into the end zone.

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Alabama's Winter Sports Schedules

Men's Basketball

97	Marathon Oil Exhibition	84
103	Middle Tennessee State	58
74	Texas Tech	53
74	Southern Methodist	56
75	@ Penn State	67
88	Louisiana Tech	73
88	Texas Southern	58
74	USC	61
94	Georgetown	73
85	@ Florida	89
80	@ Auburn	91
74	Kentucky	67
79	Vanderbilt	81
64	@ Georgia	67
64	@ Tennessee	74
75	LSU	70
Jan. 24	Mississippi	
Jan. 28	@ UCLA	
Jan. 31	@ Mississippi State	
Feb. 5	@ Kentucky	
Feb. 8	@ Vanderbilt	
Feb. 12	Georgia	
Feb. 14	Tennessee	
Feb. 19	@ LSU	
Feb. 21	@ Mississippi	
Feb. 26	Mississippi State	
March 3	Florida	
March 6	Auburn	
March 9-12	SEC Tournament (Birmingham)	
March 17-20	NCAA First Round	
March 24-27	NCAA Regionals	
April 2-4	NCAA Finals (Albuquerque, N.M.)	

Women's Swimming

88	@ Indiana	64
86	@ Southern Illinois	53
97	Kansas	51
38	Florida	111
97	S. Carolina	52
87	Clemson	62
76	@ Cincinnati	37
92	Auburn	57
Jan. 28	@ LSU	
Jan. 29	@ Tulane	
Feb. 4	@ Tennessee	
Feb. 11-12	Alabama Invitational	
Feb. 24-26	SEC Championship	
March 17-19	NCAA Championship (Lincoln, Nebraska)	

Women's Basketball

81	Troy State	60
63	@ Georgia Tech	56
69	@ Memphis State	74
94	@ Georgia State	67
64	Florida State	73
56	Louisiana Tech	83
66	Tulane	58
74	N. Louisiana	67
51	Tennessee-Chattanooga	63
66	North Carolina	77
49	@ Auburn	60
82	Western Kentucky	48
81	South Alabama	56
82	@ DePaul	66
71	@ Notre Dame	56
77	Kentucky	104
73	Louisiana State	77
Jan. 24	Mississippi	
Jan. 26	@ Troy State	
Jan. 29	@ Mississippi State	
Feb. 2	@ South Alabama	
Feb. 9	Auburn	
Feb. 16	@ Florida (Pensacola)	
Feb. 19	@ Louisiana State	
Feb. 21	@ Mississippi	
Feb. 26	Mississippi	
March 3-6	SEC Championship @ Tennessee	

Men's Swimming

66	@ Indiana	48
63	@ Southern Illinois	50
75	Kansas	37
69	Florida	43
69	S. Carolina	44
	Clemson	
73	@ Cincinnati	39
62	Auburn	51
Jan. 28	@ Southern Mississippi (split squad)	
Jan. 28	@ LSU (split squad)	
Jan. 29	@ Tulane	
Feb. 5	@ Tennessee	
Feb. 11-12	Alabama Invitational	
March 3-5	SEC Championship (@ Tennessee)	
March 24-26	NCAA Championship	

Women's Gymnastics

180.25	Auburn, LSU, Minnesota (167.10, 175.25, 174.7)	
	@ Florida	179.20
Jan. 27	@ Penn State	
Jan. 29	@ West Virginia	
Feb. 4-5	Red & White Classic (Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, Nebraska, Ohio State)	
Feb. 9	@ Jacksonville State	
Feb. 11	North Carolina	
Feb. 18-19	SEC Championship @ Florida	
Feb. 25	Auburn	
March 4	Illinois-Chicago Circle	
March 10	Georgia, Missouri	
March 25	NCAA Regionals @ Florida	
April 8-9	NCAA Nationals @ Utah	

Men's Indoor Track

	@ Kodak Invitational (no team scores)	
	@ Mississippi Invitational (no team scores)	
Jan. 30	@ LSU Invitational (Florida, State, Houston, Texas A&M)	
Feb. 5	@ Indiana Invitational	
Feb. 12	@ Montgomery Invitational	
Feb. 26-27	SEC Championships @ LSU	
March 12	NCAA Championships @ Pontiac, Michigan	

Women's Indoor Track

	@ Mississippi Invitational (no team scores)	
Jan. 30	@ LSU Invitational (Florida State, Houston, Texas A&M)	
Feb. 5	@ Indiana Invitational	
Feb. 12	@ Montgomery Invitational	
Feb. 26-27	SEC Championships @ LSU	
March 12	NCAA Championships @ Pontiac, Michigan	

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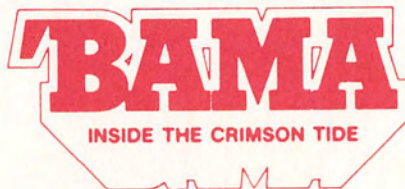
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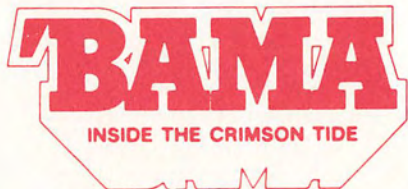
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